

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 DPW-01 CU-04 OMB-01 AID-20

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R 130325YVNOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7862

UKFO RUESQD/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 5923

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY QOTEHRAN

TUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1580

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK

SUBJECT: KASHMIR

REF: ISLAMABAD 9583, 9682, 9702; NEW DELHI 11580

SUMMARY: HIBT

AR#INDIAN REACTION TO BHUTTO'S RENEWED CALLS

FOR SELF-DETERMINATION FOR KASHMIR HAS BEEN MILD. INDIA

HAS SENT A WRITTEN NOTE OF PROTEST TO THE GOP BUT

APPARENTLY DOES NOT PLAN EITHER TO MAKE AN IMMEDIATE

PUBLIC STATEMENT OR TO DELAY RETURN OF THE POW'S AS A

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RESULT. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS SAY WHAT HAPPENS NEXT DEPENDS ON WHAT BHUTTO DOES. THEY DO NOT SEE THE RECENT STUDENT RIOTING IN KASHMIR AS INCITED BY PAKISTAN BUT ACKNOWLEDGE PAKISTAN'S ABILITY TO STIR THINGS UP THERE. THEY NOTE WITH APPROVAL KASHMIR LEADER SHEIKH ABDULLAH'S PUBLIC STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION TO THE VIOLENCE AND HIS OBSERVATION THAT BHUTTO'S STATEMENTS COULD NOT REVERSE KASHMIR'S ACCESSION TO INDIA. END SUMMARY.

1. A WORKING LEVEL OFFICIAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S PAKISTAN DIVISION TOLD US NOVEMBER 13 THAT INDIA HAS SENT A WRITTEN PROTEST TO PAKISTAN OVER BHUTTO'S RECENT STATEMENTS REVIVING THE KASHMIR ISSUE. HE NOTED BHUTTO HAD PREVIOUSLY RAISED KASHMIR AT THE UN. THEREAFTER AZAD KASHMIR RADIO AND TO A LESSER EXTENT RADIO PAKISTAN AND OTHER PAKISTANI MEDIA GREATLY INCREASED THEIR OUTPUT ON KASHMIR. BHUTTO COULD NOT EXPECT THAT ANYTHING SAID FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION WOULD NOT BE NOTED IN INDIA. AT A MINIMUM, THIS FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL AND HIS COLLEAGUES FELT THAT BHUTTO WAS KEEPING HIS OPTIONS OPEN. INDIA RECOGNIZED PAKISTAN'S ABILITY TO STIR THINGS UP IN KASHMIR. THE GOI WOULD WAIT TO SEE WHAT BHUTTO WOULD DO NEXT. BUT IT WOULD NOT STOP RETURN OF THE POW'S (WHICH IS CONTINUING AT THE RATE OF ONE TRAIN OF 840 EVERY OTHER DAY) BECAUSE OF BHUTTO'S STATEMENTS.

2. THE GOI HAS NOT REACTED PUBLICLY TO BHUTTO'S STATEMENTS AND THERE ARE NO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS PENDING THUS FAR WHICH REQUIRE COMMENT, ALTHOUGH ONE WILL PROBABLY APPEAR TO WHICH THE GOVERNMENT MUST RESPOND. WHEN IT DOES, IT WILL MAINTAIN, AS IT DID IN ITS NOTE TO THE GOP, THAT THE REVIVAL OF THE SELF-DETERMINATION ISSUE IS CONTRARY TO THE SIMLA AGREEMENT PROVISIONS REQUIRING THAT "PENDING FINAL SETTLEMENT ... NEITHER SIDE SHALL UNILATERALLY ALTER THE SITUATION AND BOTH SHALL PREVENT THE ORGANIZATION, ASSISTANCE OR ENCOURAGEMENT OF ANY ACTS DETRIMENTAL TO THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACEFUL AND HARMONIOUS RELATIONS." INDIA MAY ALSO CHARGE, ACCORDING TO THIS FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL, THAT BHUTTO'S STATEMENTS CONSTITUTE INTERFERENCE IN INDIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

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3. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL DID NOT HOLD PAKISTAN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RECENT DISTURBANCES IN KASHMIR, ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED THAT HE WAS NOT PRIVY TO ANY HOME MINISTRY INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THOSE DISTURBANCES BEGAN WHEN 200 STUDENTS RIOTED IN SRINAGAR ON NOVEMBER 7 OVER RENAMING OF A WOMEN'S COLLEGE IN HNG OF JAWAHARLAL NEHRU. SOME STAFF

AND STUDENTS OF THE WOMEN'S COLLEGE UNSUCCESSFULLY RESISTED THE RIOTERS, WHO WERE FROM ANOTHER COLLEGE AND WHO REPORTEDLY SHOUTED PRO-PAKISTAN SLOGANS. THE NEXT DAY RIOTING SPREAD TO TWO OUTLYING TOWNS. ALL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WERE TEMPORARILY CLOSED. FURTHER SMALL-SCALE DISTURBANCES AGAIN OCCURRED NOVEMBER 12 WHEN REOPENING OF THE COLLEGES WAS ATTEMPTED AND STUDENTS DEMANDED THE RELEASE OF THOSE ARRESTED NOVEMBER 7.

4. SHEIKH ABDULLAH TOLD THE PRESS NOVEMBER 10 THAT BHOTTO'S STATEMENTS COULD NOT "CHANGE THE PRESENT STATUS OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR." ABDULLAH CITED THE 1947 ACCESSION AS BEING BASED ON "CAREFUL CONSIDERATION." "BHOTTO IS SIMPLY EXPLOITING THE PRESENT DISSATISFACTION OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE," HE SAID. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE RIOTING, HE SAID HE DID NOT FAVOR VIOLENCE ANYWHERE. HE CRITICIZED CORRUPTION IN THE KASHMIR GOVERNMENT AND REITERATED HIS POSITION THAT KASHMIR SHOULD RETURN TO THE POSITION AT THAT TIME OF ACCESSION, WITH ONLY DEFENSE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS UNDERGOI CONTROL.

5. COMMENT: WE SHARE ISLAMABAD'S PUZZLEMENT AT BHUTTO'S MOTIVES IN ESCALATING HIS LANGUAGE ON KASHMIR LAST WEEK AND IN PICKING UP A MINOR INCIDENT TO CALL FOR A STATE-WIDE STRIKE IN KASHMIR ONE OF THESE DAYS. WHETHER THE DEMONSTRATIONS IN KASHMIR WERE STIRRED BY BHUTTO'S SPEECHES, OR BHUTTO WAS AROUSED TO ESCALATE HIS LANGUAGE BY THE FACT OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS, THE CONJUNCTION ILLUSTRATES THE POTENTIAL VOLATILITY OF INDO-PAK FEELINGS OVER KASHMIR. CONCEIVABLY THE INDIANS WILL CONTINUE TO HOLD THEIR PEACE AND BHUTTO WILL DROP HIS IDEA OF A STRIKE CALL, BUT THE DANGERS IMPLICIT IN THIS KIND OF GAME ARE EVIDENT.

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MOYNIHAN

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